

USA Comments shown in blue font

CHAPTER 6.8.

MONITORING OF THE QUANTITIES AND USAGE PATTERNS OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS IN FOOD-PRODUCING ANIMALS

Article 6.8.1.

Definition and purpose

For the purposes of this chapter, therapeutic use of *antimicrobial agents* means the administration of *antimicrobial agents* to *animals* for treating, [preventing](#) and controlling infectious diseases.

Rationale: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and Codex Alimentarius have defined therapeutic uses in the same manner—for the treatment, control, and prevention of disease. Preventive use of antimicrobials may be interpreted as a mechanism to control an infectious disease. That is, prevention uses may be a subset of what is defined by the OIE as control. However, to maintain consistency in terminology across the Codex Alimentarius, FDA, and the OIE, we recommend the term “preventing” be added as indicated above.

The purpose of these recommendations is to describe an approach to the monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals.

In order to evaluate antimicrobial exposure in food-producing animals, quantitative information should be collected to monitor usage patterns by animal species, antimicrobial agents or class, type of use (therapeutic or non-therapeutic) and route of administration.

Article 6.8.2.

Objectives

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